



Rowley Regis Urban District Council.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

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E. Blocksidge, Printer, Dudley.—17931.



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(Tabulated according to the headings prescribed in  
Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health).

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(Temporary Address) Haden Hill House,  
Old Hill,  
Staffs.,

19th April, 1926.

The Chairman and Members,  
Rowley Regis Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, which, by direction of the Ministry of Health, is required to be a survey of the measure of progress effected during the last five years in addition to being an account of the sanitary circumstances of the district during 1925. My Report, therefore, is drawn up strictly in accordance with the prescribed schedule, although in as limited a compass as is comparable with the size of the Area.

It may be apposite that I should direct your attention to a few of the principal points emerging from this survey:—

The steady fall in the birth rate continues, although with less precipitancy; the reduction in the death rate, which has been steadily declining, has now probably reached a point below which, for its further reduction, the active and whole-hearted co-operation of individual members of the community is the chief desideratum, *viz.*, a willingness to observe the elementary principles of personal hygiene and to subjugate all other considerations to the raising of his or her personal resistance to disease.

If one were to select any particular factor which in importance from a sanitary point of view dominates the position, one would stress the need for more and better housing accommodation. The grievous shortage—a shortage not confined to Rowley Regis—cannot be computed by reference to housing statistics alone. Its effect is seen in the incidence of infectious disease, in the propagation of tuberculosis, and in its blighting influence on the social life of the community; it eats like a canker into the moral, physical and mental welfare of the people, sapping their vitality, lowering their resistance and causing endless suffering and misery to the individual and a loss in industrial efficiency to the community.

Happily, the Council has visualised the needs and its forward progressive policy in acquiring ample and suitable building sites will go far ultimately to remedy these conditions.

In conclusion, I should like to record my thanks to the Council for consideration of any matters I have submitted and my appreciation to the Staff for their unswervingly loyal co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. LEONARD KEITH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. J. EDWIN SHAW, J.P., C.C. (Chairman).

Mr. C. C. LEWIS (Vice-Chairman).

Mr. S. ADAMS.

Mr. J. T. KITE.

Mr. J. BRADNEY.

Mr. P. M. OWEN (deceased).

Mr. T. DEELEY, J.P.

Mr. E. REID.

Mr. W. L. EDWARDS.

Mr. A. SHAW.

Mr. J. H. GRIFFITHS.

Mr. F. J. SIDAWAY.

Mr. C. HOMER.

Mr. W. H. STURMAN.

Mr. B. HOBBS, C.C.

Mr. T. THORNTON.

Mr. J. B. HOLDEN.

Mr. T. E. WALTON.

Mr. B. JOHNSON.

Mr. W. WILLETTS, J.P., C.C.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL : Mr. DANIEL WRIGHT.

SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL : MR. THOMAS COOKSEY.

# ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

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## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (exclusive of portions covered by water)	3,670 acres.
Population :	
Census, 1921	40,037
Estimated mean annual population (June, 1925)	42,760*
Number of Inhabited Houses :	
Census, 1921	8,002
Estimated, 1925	8,333
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers :	
Census, 1921	8,335
Estimated, 1925	—§
Rateable Value ...	£131,248. 5s. od.
Sum represented by a Penny District Rate ...	£424. 9s. 6d.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The Urban District, the largest in Staffordshire, is situated in the extreme south-west and in the Kingswinford Division of the County. Surrounded on three sides by the County of Worcester, and skirted on the south-west by the Mouse Sweet Brook and the River Stour, and on the north by the Birmingham Canal, it lies three miles south-east of Dudley and eight miles from Birmingham.

Irregular in shape, its greatest length is approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles and greatest breadth 2 miles. The altitude varies from just over 300 feet in the lower parts to 870 feet in the Rowley Regis Ward, across which a hill range—of which Cox's Rough, a mass of basaltic rock forms part—extends diagonally. The Birmingham and Dudley Canal traverses the District.

\*Registrar-General's figures.

§Probably greatly in excess of the figures for 1921, but, in absence of a house to house survey, indeterminable.



## *Geology.*

Beneath the surface loam is a subsoil of clay, with strata of "upper and middle coal measures lying on Silurian rock, all the lower Carboniferous strata being absent."

## *Economic Geology.*

- (1) COAL. The productive coal strata of Staffordshire gradually thin out towards the south.
- (2) IRON ORE is obtained from the coal measures.
- (3) REFRACTORY MATERIALS. Fireclay, although also occurring independently, is found as an underclay of the coal seams.

The district is liable to mining subsidences.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

Although parts of the Tividale and Rowley Regis Wards are agricultural in character, very little grain is grown, the products being chiefly hay and root crops.

The district is essentially an industrial one, mining, the manufacture of iron goods, such as nails, rivets, tubes, chains and anchors, and the making of bricks and tiles being the chief industries. Upon the hills are important quarries yielding a hard, basaltic rock, known as "Rowley Rag," largely used for paving and channelling purposes.

## INFLUENCE OF PARTICULAR OCCUPATIONS UPON PUBLIC HEALTH.

No demonstrably detrimental effect upon public health is associated with any of the occupations followed.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### *Population.*

The estimated population in June, 1925, was 42,760.

### *Natural Increase of the Population.*

The main increment in life is from the excess of births over deaths, immigration having little, and emigration only a moderate, effect locally.



Increase in	1920	...	...	...	683
„	1921	...	...	...	717
„	1922	...	...	...	491
„	1923	...	...	...	425
„	1924	...	...	...	442
„	1925	...	...	...	428

The local natural increase per 1,000 of the population is 10.4, which compares very favourably with the average for all Urban Districts in the Midlands, *viz.*, 7 per 1,000. Although this increment is gradually falling, and after due allowance is made for the large number of deaths occurring in the first few years of life, these figures indicate the gradually increasing call for the provision of more houses.

### BIRTHS.

The number of births in 1925 was 853, equivalent to a birth rate of 19.95 per thousand of the population, and the lowest on record. Had the average birth rate for the decennium (1906—1915) been maintained, 430 more births would have been recorded in 1925. The fall in the birth rate, in comparison with the fall in the death rate, is so much greater that, provided its fall be progressively continued, a point will be reached in 15—20 years when the birth and death rates will be approximately equal and the population will then be at a standstill.

### BIRTH RATE per 1,000 POPULATION.

			Rowley Regis.	Average for Towns (population 20000-50000)
1921	...	...	28.93	22.7
1922	...	...	23.48	20.5
1923	...	...	20.68	19.8
1924	...	...	20.60	18.9
1925	...	...	19.95	18.3

### BIRTH RATE BY WARD DISTRIBUTION.

The decrease in the birth rates in the several Wards is as follows:—

Ward.	Birth Rate in 1915	Birth Rate in 1925	Decrease
Cradley Heath ... ..	27.0	18.27	—8.73
Old Hill ... ..	27.4	18.16	—9.24
Blackheath ... ..	25.6	21.52	—4.08
Rowley Regis ... ..	28.3	22.64	—5.66
Tividale ... ..	28.9	20.54	—8.36

### ILLEGITIMACY.

Although fluctuating from year to year, there is little material alteration in the figures during the last ten years.

	YEARS.					
No. of Illegitimate Births Percentage of Total Births... ..	1915 15	1921 22	1922 27	1923 19	1924 9	1925 15
	1.4	1.9	2.7	2.2	1.0	1.7

### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Notification is well observed, only 3.7 of the total births registered being un-notified. Still-Births occurred during 1925 in the proportion of one to every fifty-eight live births. Details of the working of the Act are given on page 62.

### DEATHS.

During 1925, the Registrar-General's Return shows that the deaths registered, after allowing for transferable deaths, numbered 236 males and 189 females, giving a total of 425 persons. This is equivalent to a death rate of 9.94 per 1,000 of the estimated population, or 10.27 if corrected for sex and age distribution—a lower death rate than hitherto recorded.

In the case of twenty-two deaths, an inquest was held. All deaths were certified.

### DEATH RATE per 1,000 POPULATION.

	Rowley Regis.	Average for Towns (adjusted population 20,000-50,000).
1921 ... ..	11.44	11.3
1922 ... ..	11.70	11.7
1923 ... ..	10.57	10.6
1924 ... ..	10.19	11.2
1925 ... ..	9.94	11.2

## COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES IN WARDS.

Wards.	Estimated Popula- tion.	Acreage	Density	No. of persons per House.	General Death Rate.
Cradley Heath ...	11,108	552	20.1	5.15	8.82
Old Hill ...	13,386	599	22.3	5.24	10.75
Blackheath ...	7,854	188	41.7	5.35	11.59
Rowley Regis ...	6,891	1347	5.1	4.73	9.28
Tividale ...	3,521	984	3.6	5.05	8.80

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following is a statement of the number of persons registered as dying from each of the chief causes of death in 1925 and the five previous years.

Cause of Death.	Average per 1000 Deaths (all causes)	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Apprx. average 1920--1924	1925	Increase or Decrease
Measles .....	13	5	3	—	20	—	6	16	+10
Whooping Cough ...	21	11	2	11	7	18	10	7	—3
Diphtheria.....	6	6	4	2	1	1	3	1	—2
Influenza .....	64	52	15	27	24	33	30	16	—14
Tuberculosis:									
Pulmonary .....	57	24	28	30	25	29	27	36	+9
Non-Pulmonary	17	11	9	9	7	3	8	7	—1
Cancer .....	81	27	39	46	38	41	38	26	—12
Heart Disease .....	72	40	35	27	31	36	34	44	+10
Cerebral Hæmorrhage									
Embolism and									
Thrombosis .....	55	28	17	33	29	25	26	39	+13
Bronchitis .....	110	45	53	57	61	47	52	22	—30
Pneumonia .....	106	55	50	57	49	38	50	50	—
Nephritis .....	26	15	12	17	10	9	12	8	—4
Premature Birth,									
Malformation and									
Debility .....	68	32	49	26	26	26	32	31	—1
Diarrhoea and									
Enteritis .....	23	16	22	5	9	4	11	3	—8
Violence (excluding									
Suicide) .....	36	19	17	22	13	13	17	10	—7

## INFANT MORTALITY.

This is dealt with upon page 67.

## POOR LAW RELIEF.

I am indebted to Mr. Theo. W. Quarmby, Clerk to the Guardians of the Dudley Union, for the following figures.

### *Out-door Relief in 1925.*

- |     |     |  |                  |
|-----|-----|--|------------------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of individual claimants receiving maintenance ... ..                          | 510              |
|     | (b) | Average number of persons relieved per week  | 328              |
|     | (c) | Total cost of above maintenance either in cash or its equivalent ... ..                    | £4,190. 10s. 1d. |
| (2) | (a) | Total number of unemployed persons doing work for Guardians ... ..                         | 77               |
|     | (b) | Average number of unemployed able-bodied men relieved per week ... ..                      | 3                |
|     | (c) | Total cost of above either in cash or its equivalent ... ..                                | £90. 5s. 6d.     |
| (3) |     | The number of individual persons seeking medical aid from Poor Law Medical Officers ... .. | 35               |
|     |     | (Medical extras ordered included Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Brandy and Eggs).                    |                  |

### *In-door Relief in 1925.*

- |     |     |   |               |
|-----|-----|---|---------------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of persons admitted to Poor Law Institution ... ..               | 79            |
|     | (b) | The number of above (1) (a) who received medical treatment in hospital ... .. | 34            |
| (2) | (a) | Total number of days spent in the Poor Law Institution ... ..                 | 7,970         |
|     | (b) | The proportion of the days referred to under (2) (a) spent in hospital ... .. | 6,022         |
| (3) |     | Average cost of maintenance per bed per annum:                                |               |
|     | (a) | For institutional treatment ... ..  | £42. 9s. 4d.  |
|     | (b) | For hospital treatment ... ..   | £54. 12s. 0d. |

## SPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY.

During the last five years the incidence of Respiratory Diseases, notably Bronchitis and Pneumonia, has stood at a fairly high level, the average proportion of deaths from these two causes being respectively 110 and 106 per 1,000 deaths from all causes.

## CONDITIONS OF OCCUPATION OR ENVIRONMENT PREJUDICIALLY AFFECTING HEALTH.

### *Occupation.*

No specially detrimental influence is noted, but the scarcity of work amongst the male population has the effect of causing many married women to engage in the chain making industry—a circumstance which militates against their devoting the personal attention necessary in the healthy upbringing of young children.

### *Environment.*

The national shortage of houses is reflected locally and the inadequate housing conditions and resulting overcrowding are intimately bound up with the spread of infectious disease.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. *Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.*

(1) *Tuberculosis.* Treatment provided by the County Council.

- (a) Children's Sanatorium, "The Limes," Himley (for early pulmonary and certain non-pulmonary cases).
- (b) Groundslow House Sanatorium, Tittensor (adult females only).
- (c) County Sanatorium, Prestwood House, Kingswinford.
- (d) Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital, Kinver (adult males only).

Treatment provided through the County Council by arrangement with—

- (e) Isolation Hospital, Yarnfield, near Stone.
- (f) Certain Institutions, *e.g.*, Royal Orthopædic Hospital and "Woodlands," Northfield, Birmingham, and the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry.

(2) *Maternity.*

In accordance with arrangements sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, the District Council is authorised to meet the cost of maintenance of certain normal and abnormal cases of pregnancy at the two following Institutions:—

- (a) Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Loveday Street, Birmingham.
- (b) Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

(3) *Children.*

The District Council, acting either under the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act or in its capacity as Local Education Authority is empowered to incur expense for the in-patient treatment of certain children at the following hospitals:

(a) Children's Hospital, Ladywood Road, Birmingham. The types of cases that are eligible for treatment are surgical conditions of the throat and eyes, orthopædic defects and children suffering from Encephalitis Lethargica.

(b) Royal Orthopædic Hospital and "Woodlands" Open-Air Hospital, Northfield, Birmingham. The children sent are limited to those suffering from crippling defects not then due to active tuberculosis.

(4) *Fever.*

(a) Isolation Hospital, Tividale. A small part has been renovated, but the utilising of the building as a Hospital cannot be recommended.

(b) Stourbridge and Halesowen Isolation Hospital, Hayley Green. Limited accommodation for the isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria is arranged for by the District Council.

(5) *Small-pox.*

Rowley Regis is a constituent district of the South Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Hospital Board, the Isolation Hospital being situated at Moxley, near Bilston.



(6) *Other Institutions available for the District.*

- (a) Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, Bath Row, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturday), 9-30—11 a.m.
- (b) General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open daily from 9—10 a.m.
- \*(c) Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham: Out-patients' seen daily from 9—10 a.m.
- (d) Dental Hospital, 132, Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Hours: 9—10-15 daily.
- (e) Ear and Throat Hospital, Edmund Street, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open daily (except Saturday) from 9-30—11 a.m.
- (f) Homeopæthic Hospital, 15, Easy Row, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open 9—10 a.m. daily, and every afternoon (except Wednesday) from 2—3 o'clock.
- (g) Queen's Hospital, Bath Row, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open 9 a.m. daily.
- (h) Skin and Urinary Hospital, John Bright Street, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday from 1—3 p.m.
- (i) Women's Hospital, Upper Priory, Birmingham: Out-patients' Department open Monday to Friday, from 1—3 p.m.; special cases seen on Thursdays.
- \*(j) Dudley Guest Hospital: Hours 9—10 a.m.
- \*(k) Dudley Dispensary: Hours 9—11 a.m.
- (l) Poor Law Infirmary, Sedgley.

B. *Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the Area.*

Nil.

C. *Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) For infectious cases. Persons admitted to Hayley Green Hospital are transferred there by a Motor Ambulance belonging to, and kept at, that Hospital.

\*For those Hospitals marked with an Asterisk (\*) the Council in 1925 supplied through a voluntary fund, "Notes" entitling the bearer to treatment. The number of children so treated is set forth upon page 65.



Small-pox cases would be taken to the Isolation Hospital at Moxley by a Motor Ambulance kept at Wolverhampton (Telephone No. 894).

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases. A well-equipped motor ambulance, supported by voluntary contributions, is garaged behind the Council House, Old Hill.

#### D. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

##### (1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Name of Centre	Location	Accommodation	By whom provided	When in Session	Area served
Plant Street	Plant Street, Cradley Heath	Army Hut of 4 rooms	Jointly by Health and Education Committees	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 2—5 p.m.	Cradley Heath, Cradley Heath & Old Hill, Old Hill.
Ante-Natal Centre	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Every alternate Wednesday, 2—5 p.m.	The Urban District
Ross	Ross, Rowley	Assembly Hall with 3 Ante-rooms	By Health Committee	Wednesday, Friday 2—5 p.m.	Blackheath and Rowley
Springfield	United Methodist Church School, Springfield	Hall with 4 Ante-rooms	Ditto	Every alternate Wednesday, 2—5 p.m.	Springfield (Rowley)
Tividale	Council School, Tividale	Two rooms in Infants' Dept.	Jointly by Health and Education Committees	Tuesday, 2—5 p.m.	Tividale

(2) Day Nurseries. There are none in the district.

(3) School Clinics provided by the Local Authority. These are held in the aforementioned Army Hut located in Plant Street, Cradley Heath, as follows:

(a) Minor Ailments Clinic: Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to mid-day. At all the Welfare Centres (with the exception of the Ante-Natal Centre) shown under D. (1) above, children of school age are also referred for special inspection.

(b) Dental Clinic. Treatment restricted to children of school age is given at the following times—Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 9-30 a.m. to mid-day; Friday, 9-30 a.m. to mid-day and 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

#### (4) *Tuberculosis Dispensary.*

This is situated in Parsons Street, Dudley, being under the control of the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

#### (5) *Venereal Diseases.*

Treatment is provided through the Centre at the Guest Hospital, Dudley.

### E. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

*\*Medical Officer of Health (who is also School Medical Officer)*—F. LEONARD KEITH, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S.

*\* Assistant (part-time) Medical Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare*—(Appointed 1st April, 1925)—J. A. CAMERON, M.B., Ch.B.; W. HOEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.; F. NEWELL ROBERTS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; D. MACFARLANE, M.B., Ch.B.

(Dr. Cameron, Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Hoey were also Assistant (part-time) School Medical Officers).

*\*Sanitary Inspector*—ALEC LONGFELLOW, A.R., San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Meat and Foods Inspector's Certificate, Smoke Inspector's Certificate; Honours in Sanitary Science and Certificate of the Institute of Plumbers and Sanitary Engineers; Diploma of the Institute of Cleansing Superintendents.

In addition to the duties prescribed by the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922, the Sanitary Inspector is also Inspector under the Canal Boats Act, Inspector of Petroleum and Carbide Stores, Designated Officer under the Housing Regulations.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector* (who is also Inspector under the Shops Acts)—F. SALT.

*\*Health Visitors* (who are also School Nurses and Tuberculosis Visitors)—  
1. Miss E. CHARLESWORTH, three years' general training and C.M.B. 2. Miss A. HOMER, three years' general training and C.M.B. 3. Miss H. M. NOTCUTT, Board of Education Certificate (Resigned 31st July, 1925). 4. Miss J. E. ACKERS, three years' general training and C.M.B. (Resigned 30th June, 1925). 5. Mrs. E. G. DAVIES, Health Visitor's Certificate, R.San.I. (Appointed 18th August, Resigned 14th January, 1926). 6. Miss A. FIELD, three years' general training and C.M.B. (Appointed 6th October, 1925).

*Lady Clerks*—Miss E. TROMANS (Medical Officer's Office), Miss H. HARRISON (Sanitary Inspector's Office).

For the purpose of carrying out disinfection, reporting upon refuse collection and unstopping choked drains, etc., the Council provides the Sanitary Inspector with the whole-time services of an extra man—W. WOOLDRIDGE.

All are whole-time Officers, with the exception of the Assistant Medical Officers.

\*Salaries contributed to under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

F. *Professional Nursing in the Home.*

(a) *General.* Two District Nurses were working in Cradley Heath and Old Hill respectively during 1925. They are financially supported by the Nursing Associations in those Wards, their incomes being augmented by private fees.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* No services provided.

G. *Midwives.*

During 1925 twelve Midwives were practising in the Area, nine being trained and three untrained. None are subsidised by the Local Authority.

H. *Chemical Work.*

No arrangements are in force for the carrying out of such work (except for an occasional examination of well water); the Reports of the Public Analyst are not available, being dealt with by the County Council.

I. *Legislation in force.*

Local Acts, Special Local Orders, General Adoptive Acts, and Bye-Laws in force in the Urban District.

*Adoptive Acts.*

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts II., III. and V.

Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts II. (except Sections 23, 24, 27 and 31) with certain reservations in the case of Sections 25 and 30).

Part III. (except Sections 39 to 42 inclusive) with certain reservations in the case of Sections 35 and 38.

Part IV. (except Sections 58, 61, 66 and 67).

Part VIII. Sections 87, 88, 89 and 90.

Part X. Section 95.

These provisions cited as the Rowley Regis Urban (Public Health Order) 1925, became effective on the 29th December, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II., III., IV. and V. operative upon 21st April, 1926.

*Bye Laws* in respect of:—

Common Lodging Houses, sanctioned upon 23rd September, 1869.

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements and the Prevention of Nuisances, sanctioned upon 30th January, 1901.

Cemeteries, sanctioned upon 24th August, 1921.

Employment of Children and Young Persons, sanctioned upon 26th October, 1921.

Mortuaries, sanctioned upon 16th April, 1901.

New Streets and Buildings, sanctioned upon 3rd June, 1925.

Offensive Trades, sanctioned upon 16th April, 1901.

Slaughterhouses, sanctioned upon 30th January, 1901.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures, sanctioned upon 16th April, 1925.

*Regulations.*

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, operative upon 1st February, 1925.

Relative to Duties of Butchers and Slaughtermen, made upon 22nd October, 1923.

Relative to Tenancy of Houses on Housing Estates, made upon 27th July, 1925.

During the years 1921 to 1925 the Council has made progress by adopting the Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907, and bringing up to date certain Bye-Laws and Regulations, *viz.*, those dealing with New Streets and Buildings, Tents and Vans, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, the Duties of Slaughtermen, the Management of Cemeteries, and have codified, through their Education Committee, the conditions governing the employment of children and young persons.

*Co-operation of the Local Authority* in the administration of the medical services of other Public Bodies—Nil.

The Council appoint representatives as Overseers of the Poor, and upon the After-Care Committee and Southern Sub-Committee of the Joint Board for Tuberculosis.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

A constant and ample water supply is available for all parts and is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

*Source.* This is mainly from underground water from the red sandstone. A small proportion is from surface water obtained from a gathering ground near Lichfield.

*Storage.* Except for the surface water, the water is not stored beyond the usual storage associated with the district service reservoirs. The Company proposes, at an early date, to commence the filtration of the service water.

*Plumbo-solvent action.* There is none.

*Total number of Houses supplied*—8,237. This would not include those houses recently built. No information is available as to the proportion of houses supplied directly or by stand pipes.

*Analysis.* The Engineer-in-Chief to the Company, who very kindly furnished the above details, informs me that the analysis of water supplied would be of very little help in view of the fact that the water is derived from various sources and no guarantee can be given of a continuity from one or other source.

*Wells.* The number of houses drawing their water from wells is few. During the year the water from one well was analysed and reported fit for consumption.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A varying amount of stream pollution has existed, but considerable improvements have been effected during the last few years. Thirteen houses were found to discharge into the stream in Dudley Wood Road and these have been disconnected.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage is on the separate system, the surface water being discharged into watercourses. In exceptional floods the lower parts of the district, especially those affected by subsidence, are at a disadvantage.



The sewerage system operates throughout the whole district, except on the remote rural part of Turner's Hill. The sewerage of part of Ross and Yew Tree Lane is under consideration. The sewer in Waggon Street, which was temporarily repaired, is to be relaid.

The necessity for larger sewers to meet the increasing needs of the District is being kept under consideration. Sewage disposal is dealt with by the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board at their disposal works at Whittington, the Tividale Ward being dealt with at the Filter Beds in that area. These were enlarged in 1924 by the provision of additional tanks, filters, and a humus tank.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the last five years considerable improvements have been effected in the closet accommodation. The comparative figures are as follows, the number of Privy Closets having, in the case of the records for 1925, been further sub-divided as shown.

Year	No. of W.C.'s	No. of dry Ashpits	No. of Ashbins	No. of Pail Closets	No. of Privies	No. of Pits in connection with Privies
1921	6258	2909	1818	—	491	403
1925	6843	2329	3360	4	291	234

This represents a very considerable advance. At the close of 1925 the Ward distribution of the various types of closet accommodation was as follows:—

Wards.	No. of W.C.'s	No. of dry Ashpits	No. of Ashbins	No. of Pail Closets	No. of Privies	No. of Pits in connection with Privies
Cradley						
Heath	1858	504	1109	2	27	18
Old Hill	2270	854	1016	0	36	31
Blackheath	1188	398	640	1	12	10
Rowley						
Regis	1002	304	443	0	153	119
Tividale	525	209	152	1	63	58
TOTALS	6843	2329	3360	4	291	234

Ascertainment of the location of privies follows upon definite lines and, comparing these figures with those for 1924, it will be seen that there is a slight discrepancy. This discrepancy will continue until the proper enumeration is completed.

Privy conversion has proceeded apace, 31 having been converted during 1925. All the privies have been converted during the last few years under the Public Health Act. These have been done practically without any cost to the Council as only five have not been done by the owner. Only a few, approximately 47, remain to be done, and these are outstanding owing to exceptional circumstances. The remaining 248 are in the rural part of the area or in such places as, *e.g.*, where the sewer does not exist or is inaccessible.

*Public Sanitary Conveniences.* A scheme to provide for adequate equipment in this respect is at present under consideration.

### SCAVENGING.

The whole of the work is done by contract. The contractor's returns state that 13,854 loads of night soil and house refuse were collected during the year. It is not possible to use this figure with accuracy and make a return on a costing basis. The only definite data available is the number of ashpits and bins collected.

The present contract is for a further period of three years ending 30th September, 1928.

The cost per annum for house refuse removal is 5s. 10¼d. per house.

The cost per annum for house refuse disposal is 9¼d. per house.

Total cost of refuse collection and disposal is 6s. 7½d. per house per annum, approximately.

The figures are extremely low.

Considerable improvements under the active supervision of the Sanitary Inspector have been effected in the last few years in the matter of the storage, collection and disposal of refuse.

#### *Storage.*

The insanitary fixed Ashpit is rapidly disappearing, movable galvanised iron dust bins being substituted. As a result it is a much less common sight to see refuse littered around an over-



flowing ashpit—such cases as do occur being frequently due to failure upon the tenant's part to notify the need for removal. To guard against failure on the part of a contractor to empty regularly ashpits and ashbins, provision was made in the present contract for the Sanitary Inspector, after giving due notice, to carry out the work in default. The issuing of printed instructions circulated to householders, urging the burning, where possible, of household refuse, is having a good effect. Movable ashbins have been substituted for the fixed receptacles during the last five years as follows:—

Year.	No. of Dry Ashpits.	No. of Galvanized Iron Dustbins.
1921	2909	1818
1922	2892	1995
1923	2871	2038
1924	2603	2744
1925	2329	3360

### *Collection and Transport.*

The increasing use of bins in place of ashpits facilitates the cleanly collection of refuse, and will ultimately obviate the objectionable practice, hitherto only too frequent, of tipping refuse upon the roadway prior to its removal by cart.

The transport of refuse was formerly attended by the creation of a nuisance on account of the spilling of débris from carts in the course of transit. To obviate this, a commencement was made with tarpaulins to cover over the refuse ; later, sliding steel covers were fixed to three of the contractor's carts and one cart with a similar cover was provided by the Council ; more recently, two carts with sliding canvas covers and a capacity of four cubic yards were purchased by the Council. These carts, although light in weight, are strong, easily loaded and tipped, and an increasing adoption of this type is very desirable.

### *Disposal.*

This is by tips. Bearmore Road tip has been discontinued on sanitary grounds ; at the end of the year the Tividale tip was recommended for discontinuance—a proposal which has since been decided upon, and a new tip secured ; Washpool Meadow tip is

practically discontinued on account of its difficult approach ; a more central tip of large capacity estimated to last thirty years or more, has been secured at Spring Meadow, and it might be advantageous if the tips in the lower Wards were discontinued and centralisation take place at this one point.

*Cleansing of Streets.*

During the year steps were taken to obviate a complaint that street dirt, which had been swept into heaps to await removal, was being blown into adjacent shops. Three covered hand carts were therefore provided in order that such sweepings might be promptly removed directly to the tip if convenient or deposited temporarily where no nuisance could arise until collected by the Council's carts.

Certain traders, *e.g.*, greengrocers, having been known to deposit trade refuse upon the streets, it was resolved to circularise shopkeepers warning them of their responsibilities in this connection.

The provision of a new flushing van and street watering vehicle is at present under consideration.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The volume of work done—and done most efficiently—by the Sanitary Inspector and his Staff is larger than in any previous year. It is to be understood that, in a district of this description it is more important to secure the remedying of those housing defects which have a direct influence on health than those which cause, at the most, some degree of inconvenience.

*The number and nature of Inspections made during the year.*

These include routine inspections and inspections for nuisances of which intimations have been received.

HOUSES.

*Recorded under the Housing Regulations.*

(a) Houses where no defects were found to exist...	51
(b) Houses where defects were found to exist ...	322
(c) Houses dangerous or injurious as to be unfit ...	3

— 376

*Under the Public Health Act.*

(a) Houses where no defects were found to exist...	166	
(b) Houses where defects were found to exist ...	257	
(c) Houses dangerous or injurious as to be unfit	11	
	—	434
<hr/>		
Total number of Houses inspected during the year 1925	810	
Re-visits to Houses for work in progress ...	647	

NATURE.	No. of individual premises visited.	Total No. of Inspections made.
Infectious Disease ... ..	201	432
Drains ... ..	119	468
Urinals ... ..	19	23
Slaughterhouses... ..	26	977
Food Stores ... ..	815	1019
Stables and Animals kept ... ..	46	68
Piggeries ... ..	27	30
Factories ... ..	19	26
Workshops ... ..	275	447
Bakehouses ... ..	36	87
Cowsheds ... ..	24	41
Dairies ... ..	65	66
Manure Pits ... ..	31	61
Van Dwellings ... ..	44	44
Watercourses and Ditches ... ..	8	8
Canal Boats ... ..	49	49
Carbide Stores ... ..	9	23
Petroleum Stores ... ..	45	70
Smoke Inspections ... ..	15	20
Rag and Bone ... ..	13	25

Interviews with Owners                      ...                      150

NATURE OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN 1925.	No. of Defects.	No. of Defects		Total No. of Defects remedied.
		Informal action.	Formal action.	
General Housing Defects:				
Defective Spouting ... ..	172	42	—	42
Defective Roofs ... ..	131	72	—	72
Dirty Dwelling-houses ... ..	68	31	—	31
Defective Ceilings ... ..	71	29	—	29
Defective Wall Plaster ... ..	93	24	—	24
Dirty Bedrooms ... ..	100	49	—	49
Dirty Pantries ... ..	22	6	—	6

NATURE OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN 1925	No. of Defects.	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
Dirty Staircases ... ..	14	4	—	4
Dirty Living Rooms ... ..	31	8	—	8
Defective Window Frames ... ..	46	11	—	11
Defective Window Cords ... ..	92	22	—	22
Defective Doors ... ..	21	7	—	7
Defective Bannister Rail ... ..	2	—	—	—
Defective Staircase ... ..	23	10	—	10
Defective Floors ... ..	47	17	—	17
Fixed Windows ... ..	59	13	—	13
Damp Gable Walls ... ..	16	9	—	9
Defective Brickwork in Walls of Dwelling-house ... ..	32	8	—	8
Dcfective Door-casements and door-sills ... ..	13	3	—	3
Defective Fire Grates ... ..	13	—	—	—
Defective Brick Steps in Pantry ... ..	1	—	—	—
No ventilation in Pantry ... ..	2	—	—	—
No through ventilation ... ..	1	—	—	—
Defective Chimneys ... ..	28	14	—	14
Defective Yard Door ... ..	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	1	1	—	1
Defective Roofs of Wash-houses...	71	23	—	23
Dilapidated Walls of Wash-houses	7	4	—	4
Defective Wash-house Doors ... ..	2	—	—	—
Defective Ceilings in Wash-houses	1	—	—	—
Defective Door-casements of Wash-houses ... ..	9	3	—	3
Defective Door-sills of Wash- houses ... ..	8	3	—	3
Defective Floors of Wash-houses	44	9	—	9
Dirty Wash-houses ... ..	51	12	—	12
Foul Sinks ... ..	69	21	—	21
Defective Sink Waste Pipes ... ..	9	1	—	1
Defective Brick Pillar under Sink	1	—	—	—
Defective Boilers ... ..	6	2	—	2
Defective Boiler under brickwork	10	3	—	3
Defective Boiler Fire Grate ... ..	12	3	—	3
Defective Yard Pavement ... ..	24	7	—	7
Broken Inspection Chamber Covers ... ..	11	7	—	7
Defective Frame and Cover to Well ... ..	1	1	—	1
Defective Soft Water Tank Covers	3	—	—	—
Dirty Soft Water Tank ... ..	1	1	—	1
Obstructed Drains ... ..	39	30	—	30
Defective Drainage ... ..	6	6	—	6
Obstructed W.C.'s... ..	16	12	—	12
Dirty W.C.'s ... ..	7	2	—	2
Defective Walls of W.C.'s ... ..	10	4	—	4
Defective Floors of W.C.'s ... ..	5	2	—	2

NATURE OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN 1925	No. of Defects	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
Dilapidated W.C. Structure ...	1	—	—	—
Defective Roofs of W.C.'s ...	49	16	2	18
Defective W.C. Joints ... ..	12	4	1	5
Defective W.C. Cisterns ... ..	5	3	—	3
Broken W. C. Pans ... ..	15	9	3	12
Defective Door-casements of W.C.'s ... ..	2	1	—	1
Defective W. C. Seats ... ..	18	5	1	6
No Water Supply to W.C.'s ...	3	2	—	2
Burst Service Pipe ... ..	1	1	—	1
Doors off W.C.'s ... ..	13	4	1	5
Dirty W.C. Pans ... ..	2	2	—	2
Defective Flushing Apparatus ...	57	26	2	28
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	21	6	10	16
Insufficient Ashpit Accommoda- tion ... ..	632	91	440	531
Defective Roof of Ashpit ... ..	3	2	—	2
No Door to Ashpit ... ..	3	1	—	1
Defective Dustbins ... ..	37	31	—	31
Insufficient Water Supply ... ..	80	13	—	13
Water in Cellars ... ..	11	4	—	4
Foul Drain in Pantry ... ..	1	1	—	1
Foul Privies ... ..	17	5	10	15
Insanitary Structures ... ..	3	3	—	3
Insufficient Wash-house Accom- modation ... ..	1	—	—	—
Dilapidated Coal-house ... ..	1	—	—	—
Defective Roof of Workshop ...	1	—	—	—
Insufficient Drainage to Wash- house ... ..	2	1	—	1
Owner's Name and Address not on Rent Book ... ..	4	2	—	2
House unfit for Human Habita- tion ... ..	1	—	1	1
FOOD STORES.				
Dirty Food Stores ... ..	44	43	—	43
No Ventilation ... ..	27	27	—	27
No protection of food against Flies and Dust ... ..	186	167	—	167
Dirty Utensils ... ..	1	1	—	1
No Name over Door ... ..	2	2	—	2
Accumulations in Yard ... ..	1	1	—	1
No Bins for Bones ... ..	3	3	—	3
Sides of Stall not screened ...	1	1	—	1
Filthy Chopping Block ... ..	1	1	—	1
PIGGERIES.				
Defective Floor ... ..	1	1	—	1
Insufficient Drainage ... ..	1	1	—	1

NATURE OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN 1925	No. of Defects	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied.
		Informal action	Formal action	
Dirty Piggery ... ..	1	1	—	1
SLAUGHTERHOUSES.				
Walls not impervious ... ..	4	4	—	4
No Bins for Offal ... ..	5	5	—	5
Dirty ... ..	2	2	—	2
Insanitary Manure Pit ... ..	3	3	—	3
Defective Yard ... ..	2	2	—	2
Accumulations in Yard area ... ..	2	2	—	2
Filthy Corner Board in Shop ... ..	1	1	—	1
Loft in Slaughterhouse ... ..	1	1	—	1
Insanitary Ashpit ... ..	1	1	—	1
Insanitary Piggeries ... ..	1	—	—	—
Utensils, etc., kept in Slaughter- house ... ..	1	1	—	1
Dirty Meat ... ..	1	1	—	1
SMOKE ... ..	6	5	—	5
MANURE PITs.				
Defects and accumulations ... ..	31	29	1	30
NUISANCES from Animals kept ... ..	20	20	—	20
FISH FRYING ... ..	1	1	—	1
Defective Stable Floor, House Plaster and Dirty Dwelling				
House ... ..	3	3	—	3
Dirty Stable ... ..	1	1	—	1
Accumulation of Manure, Dirty Stable and Piggery ... ..				
Dirty Cowshed and accumulation of Manure ... ..	3	3	—	3
2	2	—	2	
WORKSHOPS.				
Dirty Workshops ... ..	155	124	—	124
Defective Roofs ... ..	4	4	—	4
Dangerous Workshops ... ..	2	2	—	2
Animals kept in Workshop ... ..	2	2	—	2
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	1	1	—	1
Dirty Floor ... ..	1	1	—	1
BAKEHOUSES.				
Dirty Walls ... ..	15	15	—	15
Dirty Ceilings ... ..	7	7	—	7
Foul Sink ... ..	1	1	—	1
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	1	1	—	1
Accumulation of Rubbish ... ..	1	1	—	1



NATURE OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN 1925	No. of Defects	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
FACTORIES.				
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	3	3	—	3
No Seat on W.C. ... ..	1	1	—	1
Dirty Walls of W.C.'s ... ..	3	3	—	3
W.C. not screened ... ..	1	1	—	1
Obstructed W.C. ... ..	1	1	—	1
Broken W.C. Pan ... ..	1	1	—	1
Defective Flushing Apparatus ...	1	1	—	1
URINALS.				
Insufficient UrinalAccommodation	1	1	—	1
Foul Urinals ... ..	2	2	—	2
Insufficient Drainage ... ..	1	1	—	1
COW SHED.				
Dirty ... ..	1	1	—	1

## NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

The number of :—

NOTICES on the Books, December 31st, 1924	...	394
INFORMAL NOTICES served during the year 1925	...	1078
FORMAL NOTICES served during the year 1925	...	213
INFORMAL NOTICES COMPLIED WITH	1026	
FORMAL NOTICES complied with which were served in 1925	...	209
FORMAL NOTICES which were served in 1924 but complied with in 1925	...	54
	—	1289

The NUMBER OF NOTICES on the Books, December, 31st, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	396
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The number of Letters written to Owners, etc., during the year	...	...	...	...	...	160
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*The Analysis of the Notices for 1925 is as follows :*

*Informal Notices.*

General Housing Defects, including ashpits, drains, W.C.'s etc., 619 (tabulated under the Housing heading, the figure 579 is given as Defective Dwellings. The difference between 579 and 619, herewith given, is accounted for by the fact that a number of Ashpits, Drains & W.C.'s were dealt with as such individually). Factories, 7 ; Workshops, 156 ; Bakehouses, 18 ; Manure Pits, defects and accumulations of manure and filth, 30 ; Nuisances from Animals kept, 20 ; Urinal defects, 4 ; Cowshed defects, 1 ; Piggeries, 2 ; Smoke, 6 ; Stable, 1 ; Slaughterhouses, 6 ; Meat Shops and Food Stores, 204 ; Fish Frying, 1 ; Dirty Cowshed and manure accumulation, 1 ; Accumulation of manure, Dirty Stable and Piggeries, 1 ; Defective Stable Floor, Dirty Dwelling house and Defective Wall Plaster, 1.

*Formal Notices.*

General Housing Defects, 17 ; Insanitary Ashpits, 173 ; Insufficient W.C. and Ashpit Accommodation, 22 ; Manure, 1.

DETAILS OF WORK DONE BY COUNCIL IN DEFAULT  
OF OWNERS.

Dust Bins supplied in lieu of Insanitary Ashpits		Dust Bins supplied in lieu of Insanitary Ashpits	
Cradley Heath :		Old Hill :	
Grainger's Lane...	10	Hall Street ...	2
Dudley Wood Road	11	Station Road ...	3
Wood's Lane ...	2	Wright's Lane ...	33
Cradley Road ...	3	Spring Meadow	10
Providence Street	1	Peartree Street ...	3
Corngreaves Road	2	Church Street ...	13
High Street ...	9		
Newtown Street	6		
Foxoak Street	19		
Allbut Street ...	2		
Spinner's End ...	3		
Pearson Street	10		
Park Street ...	2		
			<hr/>
			144
			<hr/>
		Insufficient W.C. Accommodation.	
Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			146

The discrepancy of the figure 146, as compared with the figure 153 under "Housing Statistics Note" is accounted for by the fact that many ashpits are used in common in which case the Owner of each house is served with a separate Notice. See page 43.

# DETAILED PARTICULARS OF WRITTEN COMPLAINTS made during 1925 respecting alleged Nuisances and Defects.

Defective Roofs of Dwelling-houses ... ..	24	Sewage in Cellars ... ..	2
Defective Plaster ... ..	1	Water in Pantries ... ..	3
Broken Sash Cords ... ..	1	Smoke ... ..	6
Dirty Dwelling-house ... ..	3	Meat ... ..	29
Defective Spouting ... ..	3	Pig Killing ... ..	4
Dangerous Chimneys ... ..	3	Offal Boiling ... ..	1
Defective Rear Wall of Dwelling-house ... ..	1	Fish Frying ... ..	1
General Defects ... ..	28	Cowsheds ... ..	1
Dangerous Dwelling-house ... ..	1	Slaughterhouse ... ..	1
Dampness ... ..	5	Storm Floods ... ..	1
Overcrowding ... ..	1	Bad Smells ... ..	4
Dirty Floors ... ..	1	Burning Rubber ... ..	3
Dirty Tenant ... ..	1	Dangerous and Dirty Work-shops ... ..	4
No Wash-house accommodation ... ..	1	No Fire Escape in Factory ... ..	1
Defective Wash-house ... ..	1	Disinfection ... ..	1
Ashpits ... ..	3	Defective Boiler ... ..	1
Defective Bin ... ..	1	Burning Paper ... ..	1
Defective and Dirty W.C.'s... ..	23	No Water ... ..	28
Privies ... ..	2	Accumulations of Filth (not house refuse) ... ..	33
Broken Inspection Chamber Cover ... ..	1	Animals kept ... ..	6
Drains ... ..	25	Miscellaneous ... ..	
Sewer ... ..	1		263
Defective Watercourse ... ..	1		

## DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS AND SUMMONSES SERVED.

Date	Place	Nature of Offence	Result
9 Jan. 1925	No. 79, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis	Ejectment granted <i>re</i> unfit house. (Police Court, 24/9/24)	Evicted by Police
18 Mar. 1925	No. 81, Tipton Road, Tividale	General House Defects	Adjourned to 22/4/25 and then withdrawn, work having been done.
18 Mar. 1925	No. 82, Tipton Road,	Ditto	Ditto
18 Mar. 1925	No. 41, Lower Chapel Street, Tividale	Ditto	Ditto
15 July 1925	George Wright (Senr.)	Threats against Medical Officer of Health	Bound over for 12 months in own recognisances of £100 and a further surety of £50.
Ditto	Ditto	Threats against Sanitary Inspector	Ditto

Date	Place	Nature of Offence	Result
Ditto	Ditto	For refusing information to Sanitary Inspector under Meat Regulations	£5 os. od. Fine £7 7s. od. Costs
Ditto	George Wright (Junr.)	Ditto	£1 os. od. Fine
Ditto	Alfred Wright	Ditto	£1 os. od. Fine

### DRAINS TO NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of yards New Drain	...	2,109
New Gully Traps fixed	...	72
New Sewer Connections	...	40
New Intercepting Traps	...	39
New Vent Pipes	...	40
New Chambers	...	57
New Chamber Covers	...	66

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty inspections were made for smoke.

There are no readings of atmospheric impurities taken. The district is a manufacturing one, with the resultant smoke and atmospheric impurities. Little work is accomplished under this heading. The firing of the domestic chimney is deliberate and continued, but no action has been taken thereon.

### PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

#### *Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.*

There are 24 Cow-keepers in the district who have in occupation 37 separate Cow-houses. The number of Cows producing milk is 213. The structural condition and state of cleanliness are satisfactory in the main. The number of premises coming within the definition of "dairy" is small, *viz.*, 69, as most of the purveyors of milk are purveyors of bottled milk only.

Three Bottling Establishments, dealing only with sterilised milk, existed in 1925. All the premises are systematically inspected.

*Bakehouses.*

The total number on the Register was 36. Of these 16 were Factory Bakehouses, 8 were Workshop Bakehouses, and 12 Domestic Bakehouses.

Two premises were rebuilt during the year, whilst another, structurally the worst in the area, was burnt to the ground.

*Slaughterhouses*—see page 47.

*Rag and Bone Dealers.*

Section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1875, prohibits Rag and Bone Dealers from distributing any article of food, balloon or toy from any cart, etc., from which the above business is carried on.

A register has now been tabulated which contains 13 names, and warning letters have been sent or delivered in each case. Where dealers are caught twice contravening the Act further consideration is given to the case.

*Tents, Vans and Sheds.*

A fluctuating number of Vans, etc., approximately eight, are constantly in occupation, and are subject to Bye-Laws made.

*Cinemas.*

Five buildings used as above are inspected before the necessary licenses are issued.

No Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings or Offensive Trades are registered as existent in the District, neither do any underground sleeping rooms exist which can be controlled by the Housing Act, 1925, Section 18 (1).

*Public Mortuaries.*

Number of Bodies received in Old Hill Mortuary in 1925	5
Number of Post-Mortem Examinations held... ..	4
Number of Bodies received in Tividale Mortuary in	
1925 ... ..	3
Number of Post Mortem Examinations held... ..	2

*Cemetery.*

This is situated in an open but accessible situation.

*Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.*

Forty-five premises are now licensed for Petroleum and 9 for Carbide. These licenses are renewable at the end of each year. Most of the Petroleum Licenses issued are in connection with underground tanks with pumps attached thereto.

CANAL BOATS.

The following is the text of the Canal Boat Inspector.

5th January, 1926.

*The Chairman and Members of  
The Rowley Regis Urban District Council.  
Gentlemen,*

*I herewith present my Annual Report of Canal Boats inspected during the year 1925.*

*The number inspected is slightly in excess of last year. This may be accounted for by the fact that there are two Boat Making and Repairing establishments in the district, and many that we inspected were those to which repairs had been done in compliance with Notices served from other Authorities.*

*It will be noted in my report that there were no defects found. Whilst this in itself is correct, I respectfully point out that the defective boats proceeding to the workshops for repair are not recorded as inspections.*

*Yours obediently,  
ALEC. LONGFELLOW,  
Canal Boat Inspector.*

Number of Boats inspected during 1925	...	...	49
Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations			49
Total number for which Cabins were Registered		...	180
Total number occupying cabins	...	...	137

*Details of Occupation.*

Male adults	...	...	54
Female adults	...	...	46
Children of school age	...	...	13
Children under school age	...	...	24

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

During the year a Census of Workshops was taken and it was found that many were not now in use.

The condition of workshops generally is satisfactory, keeping in view the nature of the work, *viz.*, manufacture of iron goods, mainly carried on. The defects found were chiefly those of want of cleanliness.

The affixing of the prescribed Abstract of the Act and the keeping of the General Register are well observed.

I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
FACTORIES ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	26	8	—
WORKSHOPS ... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	441	171	—
WORKPLACES ... .. (other than Outworkers' premises)	6	—	—
TOTAL ...	473	179	—



## 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp'tor	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	165	130	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	7	7	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
{unsuitable or defective ... ..	7	7	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—
(excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921)				
TOTAL ...	179	144	—	—

## 3—HOMEWORK. Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.			
	Sending twice in the year.			Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.
	Lists	Outworkers. Contractors	Workmen	
Wearing Apparel making, etc. ....	6	—	11	4
Cables and Chains	33	1	738	29
Cart Gear	22	8	230	25
TOTAL	61	9	979	58



#### 4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S131) at the end of the year.

Bakehouses ... ..	8	Saddlery ... ..	5
Blacksmith ... ..	2	Scale Making ... ..	1
Boat Repairing ... ..	2	Screw Making ... ..	1
Bolt Making ... ..	5	Shackle Making ... ..	1
Boot and Shoe Making	5	Sheet Metal Works ... ..	1
Breeze Making ... ..	4	Shipping Tackle ... ..	2
Brewers ... ..	1	Concrete Slab Makers ... ..	1
Bucket Making ... ..	1	General Smith ... ..	3
Cabinet Works ... ..	3	Spike Makers ... ..	2
Chain Making and Cart		Sugar Boilers ... ..	2
Gear ... ..	322	Staples ... ..	18
Dressmaking ... ..	6	Stocking Knitters ... ..	1
Engineers ... ..	1	Stone Masons ... ..	3
Galvanizing ... ..	1	Swivel Making ... ..	1
Hook making ... ..	15	Tailors ... ..	9
Hollow-ware ... ..	2	Tube Fitters ... ..	1
Joiners ... ..	3	Wheelwrights ... ..	3
Millinery ... ..	2	Wood Turners ... ..	1
Motor Repairs ... ..	4		
Nails ... ..	23		
Odd Workers ... ..	9		
Rivets ... ..	9		
			<hr/> 484 <hr/>

#### OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Fowl keeping is prevalent. In many cases dilapidated sheds and structures are used and the birds are allowed access to the yards and open spaces used in common. A governing Bye-Law restricting floor space and distance from the dwelling-houses would considerably assist in this administration.

Difficulty has been experienced with fishmongers and householders in dumping objectionable refuse on pit mounds and other waste lands. Handbills have been distributed to all shopkeepers in the district and also to all occupiers in Peartree Street, Peartree Lane, New Street and Riddin Street. Good results have been obtained. Continual propaganda of this sort is desirable and has beneficial effects.

#### *Schools.*

The general sanitary condition of the schools is good. The water supply is continuous and direct from the main of the South Staffordshire Water Company. The closets are flushed by automatic cisterns of the tipper type. The memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School (1925) is carried out in detail.

## HOUSING.

### I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

#### (1) *General Housing Conditions.*

The standard of housing is similar to that found in analogous districts, namely, small dwellings of the working class type. Much of it is old property and the district is liable to subsidence.

A valuable asset lies in the fact that almost every house has a large open space in the rear.

#### (2) *Extent of Shortage of Houses.*

Without a recent house-to-house survey and an accurate knowledge of the number of houses occupied by more than one family, this is largely indeterminable. On the basis of the 1919 survey, and making allowance for the increase of population, the number of houses required cannot be less than one thousand.

#### (b) *Measures taken or contemplated to meet the shortage.*

The measures taken have been:—

1. The encouragement of private enterprise by payment of subsidy.
2. The acquisition of housing sites and the building of houses thereon by the Council.

The numbers built or in course of erection are as follows:—

Situation	Already Built	Under construction
Blackheath and Rowley .....	224	30
Tividale .....	28	16
Tippity Green .....	16	22

*Measures contemplated.* The Council has taken the long view in the matter of housing and has acquired, or is negotiating for, the following land, which when built upon, will go far to solve the shortage.

Situation	Area in Acres (approx.)	Acquired	Under negotiation
CRADLEY HEATH:			
1. Silverthorne Lane ... ..	4½	Yes	—
2. Cokeland Place ... ..	1½	Yes	—
OLD HILL:			
3. Halesowen Road ... ..	6½	Yes	—
ROWLEY REGIS:			
4. Birmingham Road and Bell End ... ..	16	Yes	—
5. Britannia Sports Ground ...	14	—	Yes
6. Mincing Lane and Oldbury Road ... ..	60	—	Yes
TIVIDALE:			
7. Hill Road ... ..	3	Yes	—
8. Hall Estate... ..	10	—	Yes

A contract has been let for 20 parlour type houses at Cokeland Place and a scheme is under consideration for the erection of houses upon the Halesowen Road and Silverthorne Lane sites.

### (3) *Changes in Population.*

No important change has taken place, but probably there is a slight increase in the 5—10 age group.

## II. OVERCROWDING.

### (1) *Extent.*

The exact extent is indeterminable without a house-to-house survey. The number of persons per house has crept gradually up ; while in 1915 the number was 4.82 the number in 1920 was 5.0, and in 1925, 5.13 persons per house.

### (2) *Causes.*

The decrease in the provision of houses may be traced back to the period prior to 1914, when, owing to a growing feeling of insecurity in investment, building was largely arrested. From 1914 to 1920 the erection of houses was at a standstill. Since then, building has not kept pace with the growth of the population, many persons being financially unable to erect houses themselves even with the aid of the subsidy. The shortage of available labour acts as a deterrent to building.

(3) *Measures taken or contemplated to deal with Overcrowding.*

None have been taken or are contemplated until the erection of houses on the above-mentioned sites makes statutory action feasible.

(4) *Principal cases of Overcrowding and action taken.*

These numbered 126 and their ascertainment was from the routine Sanitary inspections and the reports of Health Visitors. The Council has in some cases allocated houses, and has given permission under certain conditions for tenants occupying Council houses to take in lodgers. Although separation of the members of a family is to be deprecated, the boarding out of one or more persons is sometimes advised on sanitary grounds.

### III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) (a) *General standard of housing.*

Amongst so much old property and in a district liable to subsidence, it is to be expected that the general standard is not a high one. To keep houses habitable, repairs have to be continually effected and, while this course may press with seeming hardship upon owners, it can be the only course to follow if the total number of houses of which the District stands in need is not to be still further greatly increased. While I am of opinion that the general standard of fitness is improved, the houses found in 1925 to be not in all respects fit for human habitation (and, for this purpose, insufficient ashpit or water closet accommodation was not taken into account) numbered 579, or 71 per cent. of those inspected.

(b) *General character of defects.*

Dampness and structural defects due to the effect of subsidence upon old property. Fixed windows in some cases prevent free ventilation. The systematic remedying of defective eaves spouting has to some degree obviated dampness from this cause.

(c) *How far Defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by Owners or to acts of waste or neglect by Tenants.*

Unwillingness on the part of Owners to expend large sums on the maintenance of the smaller type of property which, under normal housing conditions would probably be unoccupied, is found

but is gradually lessening. The placing upon the Owner of the onus of keeping the house in a habitable condition tends to foster amongst the more careless Tenants a sense of irresponsibility which in some cases amounts to actual neglect.

(2) *General action taken as regards Unfit Houses under—*

(a) *The Public Health Acts.*

All notices are served under these Acts, the usual procedure of preliminary informal Intimation and Reminder Notice being followed. If the work be not then carried out, each case is dealt with by the Health Committee, who authorise action along the usual formal lines. Before proceeding to this, however, a Sub-Committee has in some instances met owners upon the property in question and good results were obtained in 1925 in the case of twenty-seven houses in this way.

(b) *The Housing Acts.*

These Acts have been utilised when and where it is imperative that a Closing Order should be made. The following Closures have been dealt with:—

No. 79, Dudley Road, Springfield. (The Closing Order was made and tabulated in 1924, but the ejectment was not put into operation until January, 1925).

No. 63, Waggon Street, Old Hill. Closed.

*Rent Restriction Act.* One application was received and granted.

(3) *Difficulties met with in remedying unfitness.*

A fair proportion of the smaller property is in the hands of Owners who, themselves, have been adversely affected by the all too prevalent unemployment, while in other cases, it is mortgaged. In addition there is a shortage of the necessary skilled labour, which automatically is diverted to the erection of houses, such labour as is available gravitating naturally to the erection of houses than to the patching up of small defects. Under paragraph VI. below are set out the special measures taken to secure better management of property. It has not been considered practicable to deal in the aggregate with back-to-back houses until further housing accommodation is available.



(4) *Conditions so far as they affect Housing as regards Water Supply, Closet Accommodation and Refuse Disposal.*

The general water supply conditions are fairly good, though in some cases one tap is used in common with two, three and, in a few cases, four houses. In the housing work an individual supply is always included in the notices. Closet accommodation upon the water carriage system has greatly improved and the substitution of bins for ashpits has proceeded apace. Much household refuse that could be burned in the domestic grate is still deposited for collection.

#### IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No complaint has been received but the attention of the Health Committee was drawn to the existence of certain areas. This information was recorded and will be dealt with as early as circumstances permit. The provisions of the Consolidated Town Planning Act (1925) in relation to land in course of development were also laid before the Committee.

#### V. BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, Etc.

No Common Lodging Houses or Houses let in lodgings are registered as existent.

Bye-Laws relating to Tents, Sheds and similar structures were sanctioned on April 16th, 1925.

Regulations in the case of tenants occupying Council Houses govern, *inter alia*, wilful damage to the property, prohibit sub-letting, but provide for the accommodation of lodgers subject to the number of persons per bedroom not exceeding two.

#### VI. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The action taken to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, Sinks, W.C.'s, etc.) and the disposal of household refuse by burning as far as possible is as follows:—

In all cases where Dustbins are supplied in lieu of Ashpits, four page folders with two illustrations and condensed information is supplied to the tenants and verbally explained. This is done by a man who is also engaged on drainage and disinfection work. The supervision of the Dustbin and its care is afterwards followed up. A good result is being obtained.



## *Health Week.*

During October 4th to 10th a Health Week was inaugurated amongst the school children. The Education Committee very kindly facilitated the matter, whilst the teachers willingly co-operated. The Health Booklets were prepared by the Health Department. These contained 14 pages each and dealt in concise and simple language with the following subjects: (1) Flies and Milk; (2) Ventilation. (3) Drains; (4) House Refuse Storage; (5) Infant Mortality. Six simple illustrated drawings were given contrasting the proper use and care of sanitary appliances, etc.

## **HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.**

The following synopsis is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health:—

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	72
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(1) By the Local Authority      ...      ...      ...	38
(2) By other bodies or persons    ...      ...      ...	23

### **I. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.**

#### *Inspections.*

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)      ...	810
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925      ...      ...      ...      ...	376
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation      ...      ...      ...      ...	14
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation      ...	579

NOTE.—453 Dwelling-houses were served respecting insufficient Ashpit and/or W.C. accommodation. 292 were made sufficient by the Owners. 153 were made sufficient by the Local Authority in default of the Owners, and 8 are outstanding.

These figures are dealt with separately and are not included in the number 579, par. 1 (4), neither are they included in par. 3 (b) (1) where only 22 houses were dealt with by Statutory Notices as against a total number of 213 Statutory Notices served.

## II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	364
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

### A. *Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—*

- |   |     |     |   |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:— |     |     |   |
| (a) By Owners   | ... | ... | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners   | ... | ... | 0 |

### B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts—*

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 22  |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices—          |     |
| (a) By Owners  | ... |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners  | ... |

### C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—*

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders   | ... | 3 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | ... | 1 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... | 0 |

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	0
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	0

NOTE.—It will be seen that three representations were made for Closing. These refer to the following properties:—

No. 10, Elbow Street, Old Hill.

Nos. 63 and 64, Waggon Street, Old Hill.

No. 10, Elbow Street was voluntarily closed and vacated owing to its dangerous condition before action could be taken.

No. 63, Waggon Street was dealt with legally and closed as recorded. The tenants voluntarily vacated the house and left the district to reside in Yorkshire. It is not desirable that the premises should be demolished until No. 64 is dealt with. No. 64, Waggon Street has not been dealt with until the occupiers can be accommodated elsewhere.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) *Milk Supply.*

The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution are satisfactory. There is a growing demand for bottled, sterilised milk ; no wide necked bottles are in use. One person directly retails " Certified Milk " within the Area.

New Bye-Laws governing Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops became operative upon the 1st February, 1925.

### REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS & " OTHER PERSONS."

A Register of Retailers and a separate Register of Wholesalers and Producers are compiled and are kept up to date. These show that there are 207 Retail Purveyors and 29 Wholesalers and Producers in the district. No person has been refused registration and no name has been removed from the Retailer's Register.

### (1) *Action taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.*

No action has been found necessary under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922 (Section 5 [1]), or taken under the

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and no representation directly or indirectly has been made to stop any milk supply.

The Tuberculosis Register has been checked for the names of persons coming within the scope of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (Article 5).

(2), (3) and (4).

No licenses for the sale of milk under the Special Designations Order, 1923, have been granted by this Authority.

(b) MEAT.

(1) *Inspection, Marking and Disposal of Condemned Meat.*

All meat, so far as possible, is inspected at the time of slaughter. To facilitate arrangements for the butchers, notification forms are supplied free of cost. Little or no difficulty is now experienced. The disposal of condemned meat is by incineration at a furnace adjacent to the Powke Lane Tip. The following quantity of unsound meat has been destroyed during the year:—

	Weight Lbs.		Weight Lbs.
Beast Offal	... 2654	Carcase of Sheep	... 276
Beast Lungs	... 20	Sheeps' Offal	... 30
Beast Heads	... 247	Sheeps' Liver	... 12
Beast Livers	... 241	Carcases of Pigs	... 660
Beast Fat	... 48	Pigs' Pluck	... 24
Beef	... 77	Pigs' Heads	... 14
Carcase of Cow	... 600	Pigs' Offal	... 96
Mutton	... 134	Pork	... 14

Meat marking is not carried out.

(2) *Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.*

All shops, stores and stalls have been circularised with abstract of requirements under the Meat Regulations. The following varieties exist in the district which may be classified as Meat Shops:—

Butchers	...	...	...	51
Grocers	...	...	...	54
General Dealers	...	...	...	191
				296

Most General Dealers now retail mutton and beef cutlets, small joints of fresh meat, bacon and the like. In these establishments, especially where sweets are retailed, flies are very numerous. Suitably erected Meat Safes are most desirable; 123 have been provided in compliance with our requests.

The desirability of closed Meat Shop windows is somewhat difficult to establish. Most of the Meat buying and selling is done by auction at the shop fronts during the market times, the shops themselves being too small to accommodate the numbers who purchase. In all cases blinds and side curtains are in use. In a heavy manufacturing district of this character, with narrow streets and much traffic, closed shop fronts are most desirable.

The Market Stalls are in compliance with the Regulations. In the covered Market, wooden side pieces to the stalls have also been fixed.

The summer of 1925 was a difficult one at times for most butchers. The very varying and sudden climatic changes seriously affected the keeping qualities of the meat. Some of the smaller tradesmen have not Refrigerators erected, possibly owing to their limited means. These should be made compulsory in all butchers' shops.

The vehicles for conveying meat are continually inspected and are to the required standard.

The cooking and preparing of foodstuffs in prohibited places has received special consideration, especially those in Slaughterhouses where in a few cases considerable alterations have been effected.

Three persons were prosecuted under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, details of the proceedings being detailed on page 31.

(3) There is no Public Slaughterhouse.

The following Private Slaughterhouses exist in the area:—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925
Registered Licensed	8 18	7 18	7 18
	26	25	25



In addition to the above, a licensed Knacker's Yard exists in a remote part of the district. All the slaughterhouses have been systematically inspected and the requirements of the new Regulations brought into force. Two cases are outstanding owing to exceptional circumstances.

(c) *Other Foods.*

The general standard of the Bakehouses is good and there is an all-round improvement in cleanliness and in facilities for storing bread. A large number of small shops—in many cases located in a room of the dwelling-house—are kept under supervision and the conditions under which food is stored therein have been improved. The exposure of unnecessarily large quantities of food in shop windows subjects it to contamination from flies, from moisture condensing on the inside of the glass with which it is in contact, and from gross contamination from the atmosphere and is to be deprecated. The powers conferred upon the Public Health Act of 1925, Section 72, should prove useful in dealing with premises used for the sale of food. During the year 36 tins of milk were destroyed.

(d) *Food Poisoning.* No case has been reported.

(e) and (f).

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Authorities.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### I. *Notifiable Infectious Diseases.*

Review of the chief infectious diseases since 1920:—

#### SCARLET FEVER.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1921	88	2.1	1	1.1
1922	55	1.3	—	—
1923	112	2.6	—	—
1924	62	1.4	2	3.2
1925	95	2.2	—	—



The foregoing figures show that, during the last five years, the incidence of Scarlet Fever has not declined, although the individual cases have been of a mild type. The non-severity of the symptoms indirectly tends towards the spread of the disease, inasmuch as many "missed" cases of an ambulatory type are mixing amongst the school population. "Return" cases are seldom met with, the disease frequently attacking early the susceptible members of those households in which the inadequacy of the accommodation prevents effective isolation. Limited hospital accommodation is available. The "Dick" test has not been used.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

Year.	No. of Cases.	Attack Rate per 1,000 population.	No. of Deaths.	Case mortality per cent.
1921	21	0.51	4	19.0
1922	23	0.55	2	8.7
1923	14	0.33	1	7.1
1924	41	0.96	1	2.4
1925	54	1.26	1	1.8

In the case of Diphtheria, during the last two years there has been a very considerable increase in the number of cases notified, while the mortality rate, which had been previously steadily falling, dropped again very considerably. Great reliance would appear to be placed upon a positive bacteriological report as a basis for notification and this may have helped to swell the number of notifications. The "Schick" test has not been used.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is available and issued free to medical practitioners; 115 vials, totalling 300,000 units, were so distributed. Hospital treatment is provided to a necessarily limited degree.

#### ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1921	3	0.07	1	33.3
1922	—	—	—	—
1923	2	0.05	—	—
1924	11	0.26	2	18.2
1925	11	0.26	5	45.5

The morbidity and mortality have increased in the last two years. Enquiry has not elicited information suggesting infection from case to case; no second case has originated in the same house. There has been no demonstrable causal factor common to all.

Hospital accommodation for cases up to twelve years of age is available at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham.

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1921—1923	—	—	—	—
1924	2	0.05	1	50.0
1925	1	0.02	—	—

Three cases during the last five years have been notified—no connection being demonstrated between them. In two, the bacteriological report was positive.

#### DYSENTERY.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1921	—	—	—	—
1922	1	0.02	1	100.0
1923	1	0.02	1	100.0
1924—1925	—	—	—	—

Both of the above cases were isolated in hospital but ended fatally. No spread of the infection occurred.

#### ERYSIPELAS.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Case mortality per cent.
1921	15	0.37	—	—
1922	13	0.31	—	—
1923	16	0.38	2	0.45
1924	11	0.26	—	—
1925	16	0.36	1	0.23

## PUERPERAL FEVER.

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Births
1921	3	1	0.85
1922	5	1	1.02
1923	1	2	2.29
1924	—	—	—
1925	1	1	1.17

It is regrettable that the death rate due to this condition, although fluctuating from year to year, shows no reduction.

## TUBERCULOSIS (PULMONARY).

Year	No. of Cases		Per 1,000 populat'n	No. of Deaths		Total Death Rate per 1,000 populat'n
	Males	Females		Males	Females	
1921	26	21	1.0	16	12	0.69
1922	20	21	0.9	19	11	0.72
1923	22	23	1.0	14	11	0.59
1924	18	8	0.6	10	19	0.68
1925	25	21	1.08	23	15	0.88

## TUBERCULOSIS (NON-PULMONARY)

1921	6	2	0.19	5	4	0.22
1922	5	12	0.40	4	5	0.21
1923	7	7	0.33	4	3	0.17
1924	11	10	0.49	2	1	0.07
1925	16	15	0.72	3	4	0.16

The prevalence of Tuberculosis, whether judged by the number of notifications received or the deaths registered, shows little material change. A proportion, approximately 25 per cent. of the total number of persons dying from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, died un-notified in 1923 and 1924, and a circular letter was addressed to all medical practitioners acquainting them with this fact. The higher incidence rate in 1925, judged from the notifications, may therefore be in part more apparent than real.

The question of limiting the spread of the disease is one in which the Health Visitors take an active part.

Their periodical domiciliary visits are made primarily with a view to ensuring—

- (1) That infective material is promptly destroyed ;
- (2) That the best possible isolation of the patient is observed ;
- (3) That “ contacts ” are encouraged to submit themselves to examination by the Tuberculosis Officer ;
- (4) That sanitary defects in the home are reported.

During 1925 70 visits and 1,067 re-visits were so paid.

Residence in a Sanatorium has also an educational effect upon patient and relatives alike, who see the advantages conferred by an abundance of fresh air, rest with graduated exercise and a wholesome dietary. Unfortunately, the patient's financial stringency and the inadequacy of the housing accommodation—an inadequacy, however, not more marked in this district than in other similar districts—often prevent the consumptives continuing to practise the methods he has acquired in the Sanatorium. The potentially serious effect of overcrowding upon the spread of the disease can be gauged by a consideration of the sleeping accommodation available for a number of pulmonary cases investigated during 1925 and detailed as follows:—

Number of cases under review...	...	...	...	149
Number in back to back houses	...	...	22	
Number in houses with through ventilation	...	...	127	
			<hr/>	Total 149
Number occupying separate bedroom	...	...	32	
“ “ bedroom with 1 other person			58	
“ “ “ “ 2 other persons			37	
“ “ “ “ 3 other persons			12	
“ “ “ “ 4 other persons			8	
“ “ “ “ 5 other persons			2	
			<hr/>	Total 149
Number of cases in which consumptive occupied separate bed	...	...	...	41
Number of cases in which bed was shared	...	...	108	
			<hr/>	Total 149

Apart from the human source of infection, the importance of the spread from bovine sources must not be overlooked. It seems an anomaly that, while infected meat is destroyed, we still make extensive use of milk in its raw state, regardless of the high rate of incidence of tuberculosis amongst cattle. Pasteurisation and sterilisation, if efficiently effected, provide milk free from the danger

of transmitting tuberculosis. The demand for sterilised milk is increasing and it is gratifying that three firms in the district now make provision for its supply.

#### PNEUMONIA (ACUTE PRIMARY & INFLUENZAL).

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths (all forms)	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1921	55	50	1.24
1922	133	57	1.37
1923	80	49	1.17
1924	95	38	0.89
1925	69	50	1.17

While the number of notifications from year to year fluctuated to some degree in response to the prevalence of influenza, the death rate varied only to a negligible degree.

Secondary cases in the home are not frequently met with. Good nursing assistance appears to be the most important factor in reducing the mortality.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The number of cases notified during each of the last five years respectively were 3, 4, 2, 2 and 4.

Ophthalmia is not seen in the severe form in which it used to be manifested, and there is evidence of more effective precautions being taken immediately after birth.

#### OTHER COMPULSORILY NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

No notifications from any of the other Notifiable Infectious Diseases were recorded, but one death from Meningococcal Meningitis occurred in 1922.

#### VACCINATION.

No Vaccination was carried out under the Public Health (Small-pox) Prevention Regulations, 1917. The percentage of successful vaccinations has progressively improved although a set-back is shown for 1925. The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

1921	...	...	35%	1924	...	...	55%
1922	...	...	42%	1925	...	...	45%
1923	...	...	56%				

This leaves much room for improvement as an equivalent number, *viz.*, 45 per cent. (after allowance is made for those dying unvaccinated) claimed and were granted exemption by statutory declaration.

### *Examination of Bacteriological Specimens.*

These are forwarded by arrangement with the County Council to the County Laboratory, now situated at Lichfield.

Prompt notification of the result is sent from the Laboratory to the medical practitioner, a duplicate being sent to the Medical Officer of Health. The following is a synopsis of the year's work :

			Positive	Negative	Total
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	28	108	136
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	43	132	175
Blood	...	...	—	6	6
Ringworm	...	...	1	2	3

### *Action to discover " Contacts."*

A system of " cross-notification " exists between the Head Teachers and the Sanitary Department. All cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease are visited and contacts noted.

Scarlet Fever contacts of school age are not re-admitted to school until inspected. Diphtheria contacts are, so far as practicable, swabbed and " carrier " cases referred to their medical attendant for treatment. Contacts of persons suffering from Tuberculosis are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer.

### *Arrangements for Isolation.*

Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria can be isolated, if beds be available, at the Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital, situated at Hayley Green.

Children under twelve years of age suffering from Encephalitis Lethargica can be accommodated at the Children's Hospital, Ladywood Road, Birmingham.

Cases of Puerperal Sepsis are admissible to the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, Birmingham.

### *Arrangements for Disinfection.*

This is carried out under arrangements supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, who is informed of all cases of the notifiable



infectious diseases, whether their ascertainment be by notification or by the death returns.

Houses are disinfected chiefly by fumigation with Sulphur or Vap lamps—occasionally by spraying. One hundred and ninety-three premises were so disinfected.

In the case of Tuberculosis, Chloride of Lime is supplied free and directions given as to its use for washing down periodically floors and furniture.

Schools are disinfected once a year.

Bedding and clothing, etc., are conveyed to the Council's disinfector and treated there by super-heated steam. During the year 1,068 articles, as follows, were so disinfected:—

Beds	...	...	126	Bolsters	...	...	83
Bed Cases	...	...	24	Pillows	...	...	169
Counterpanes	...	...	133	Cases	...	...	57
Sheets	...	...	155	Garments	...	...	66
Blankets	...	...	192	Other Articles	...	...	63

A supply of disinfectant, both fluid and powder, is available for distribution as required.

There is no cleansing station for the disinfection of verminous persons.

(II.) *Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.*

In the absence of formal notification, the death returns give some idea of the prevalence of these diseases. Their importance, however, cannot be stated and judged by the death rate alone, for they are peculiarly liable to be the precursors of much chronic disability and ill-health, the extent of which it is not possible to assess. This applies particularly to Measles and Whooping Cough.

INFLUENZA.

The following death return indicates the prevalence since 1920.

Year	No. of Deaths	Percentage of total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1921	15	3.41	0.37
1922	27	5.53	0.64
1923	24	5.39	0.57
1924	33	7.62	0.78
1925	16	3.76	0.37

During 1925, the seasonal incidence was chiefly in the first quarter of the year ; the age incidence between the ages of 25 and 45 years ; the actual cause of death being often Broncho-Pneumonia. Close contact between individuals in over-crowded, ill-ventilated surroundings constitutes an ideal environment for propagating infection amongst susceptible persons.

### MEASLES.

That Measles is an important cause of death is often overlooked as the following figures show :—

Years	No. of Deaths	Percentage of total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1916—1920	18 (average)	3.43	0.45
1921	3	0.64	0.07
1922	—	—	—
1923	20	4.49	0.47
1924	—	—	—
1925	16	3.76	0.37

The age group chiefly affected was that between one and two years. Given good nursing and reasonable care, Measles, in itself, is rarely a fatal disease. It is the neglect of simple precautions such as failure to keep the child for a sufficiently long period in a warm, well-ventilated room, that often ushers in the terminal pneumonia.

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

This also is a serious disease amongst children.

Year	No. of Deaths	Percentage of total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1921	2	0.43	0.05
1922	11	2.26	0.26
1923	7	1.57	0.16
1924	18	4.15	0.42
1925	7	1.65	0.16

The above remarks concerning Measles apply with equal force to Whooping Cough.

## DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.

There has been a gratifying fall in these figures.

Year	No. of Deaths	Percentage of total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1921	22	4.69	0.55
1922	5	1.02	0.12
1923	9	2.02	0.21
1924	4	0.92	0.09
1925	3	0.70	0.07

Atmospheric conditions have a close relation to this death rate. During dry and hot periods, with a high soil temperature, Enteritis is more frequently fatal and the year 1921 was remarkable in these respects.

### PARTIAL NOTIFICATION FROM SCHOOLS.

A synopsis of the Returns made by Head Teachers during 1925 is as follows:—

Measles	...	...	512 individual children.
Chicken-pox	...	...	56 „ „
Mumps	...	...	185 „ „
Whooping Cough	...	...	77 „ „

### SICKNESS FROM CAUSES OTHER THAN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Accurate determination is impracticable. The predominating causes in order of frequency are probably referable to diseases of the Respiratory and Digestive systems, Influenza, Rheumatism, Skin Affections and Injuries.

The mortality from Cancer is so intimately bound up with the sex and age distribution of the population, *i.e.*, the number of persons of each sex living in the different age groups, that only a very general inference can be drawn from the following figures.

Year	No. of Deaths	Percentage of total Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	
			Rowley Regis	England & W.
1921	39	8.31	0.95	1.21
1922	46	9.42	1.10	1.23
1923	38	8.54	0.93	1.27
1924	41	9.46	0.96	1.29
1925	26	6.12	0.61	—

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING 1925.

## Incidence and Mortality by Age Groups.

Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED														TOTAL DEATHS.														
	All Ages	Age Groups													Admitted to Hospital by Local Authority	All Ages	Age Groups												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	0-			1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Small-pox .....																													
Scarlet Fever .....	95	1	3	2	5	2	24	7	1						7	1													
Diphtheria .....	54	1	1	3	4	29	8	4	4						6														
Enteric Fever .....	1																												
Puerperal Fever .....	1																												
Pneumonia .....	69	4	9	8	4	5	5	3	3	11	4	7	6		1	16	11	3	1	2			1	7	7				
Encephalitis Lethargica	11					3	3			3	1		1			5								2					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4																											
Erysipelas .....	16			1						4	2	6	3			1								1					
GRAND TOTAL .....	251	10	9	12	10	14	89	38	14	25	7	13	10		13	59	16	11	3	1	2	3		5	1	10	7		

# TUBERCULOSIS.

\*New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmon'y		Pulmonary		Non-pulmon'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	7	4	1	—	1	2
5—	3	—	4	4	1	—	—	1
10—	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—	1	4	3	2	—	1	1	—
20—	9	9	—	3	11	9	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	5	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—	8	4	—	—	3	3	—	1
55—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	28	22	16	16	23	15	3	4

\*Includes cases knowledge of which was obtained otherwise than by formal notification.

## Efficiency of Notification.

Notification, whether judged by the ratio of un-notified to notified cases, or by the period elapsing between the dates of notification and of death, has improved. Whereas, formerly, 25 per cent. of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were un-notified, the corresponding figure for 1925 was approximately 10 per cent. The full details are as follows:—

Total number of deaths (both sexes)	...	...	...	...	45
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	38
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	7
Total number of un-notified deaths	...	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	4
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	1
Ratio of un-notified to notified deaths expressed a a percentage—					
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	0%
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	14%

Maximum period between notification and death.		NUMBER OF CASES.	
		Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1 day	...	2	3
1 week	...	4	1
1 month	...	3	1
3 months	...	3	—
6 „	...	1	—
9 „	...	3	—
1 year	...	7	—
2 years	...	5	—
5 „	...	5	1
10 „	...	1	—

*The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924.*

The action taken has followed along the lines indicated in Circular No. 549 of the Ministry of Health.

In the case of un-notified deaths, the certifying practitioner has been able to show, upon request, that he was justified in believing that the case had already been notified.

Two cases dying un-notified in Mental Asylums were referred to the County Medical Officer.

Regarding “new” cases of Tuberculosis, it was already the custom to keep a separate record of these in the Register. A more accurate Census is now practicable, in view of the explicit directions as to the keeping of the Register, and the following is a numerical return as upon the 31st December, 1925.

FORMALLY NOTIFIED CASES					UN-NOTIFIED CASES.			
Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
108	91	56	57		6	8	4	1

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)  
REGULATIONS, 1925.

These give specific power to prevent the spread of infection by tuberculous persons through the medium of milk. It is obvious that the exercising of the power is desirable only when pacific measures fail.

So far there has been no need to put paragraph 5 in force.



## THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925 (SECTION 62).

No action has been taken.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

#### (I.) INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts.

#### (II.) GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Briefly stated, the arrangements sanctioned are the provision of ante-natal care for the expectant mother ; hospital treatment for certain women at the time of confinement ; the domiciliary visiting by Health Visitors of children under five years of age ; the provision of an Ante-Natal Centre and of Infant Welfare Centres at which medical advice is available, milk foods supplied under certain conditions and treatment given for minor ailments ; and hospital provision for the treatment of certain specified ailments in children up to the age of five years. Although facilities are available for treatment, the work is primarily of an educational character.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Committee upon which voluntary lady workers are co-opted, directs the general scope of the service.

##### (1) *Ascertainment of Births.*

Knowledge of births occurring is mainly obtained from the notifications of Doctors and Midwives and from the weekly return of the Registrar of Births. Particulars of a few births, occurring outside the district, also come to hand in the form of Health Visitors' Record Cards which are forwarded when the mother returns to this district.

#### BIRTHS in 1925.

	Local Statistics			Registrar-General's figures		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	428	404	832	432	406	838
Illegitimate	3	8	11	4	11	15
Total	431	412	843	436	417	853

*Notified under the Notification of Births Act.*

		Live Births	Still Births	Total
By Doctors ..	..	184	3	187
By Midwives..	..	628	11	639
By Parents ..	..	—	—	—
Total ..	..	812	14	826

This indicates that the duty of notification is well understood—only 31 live births being un-notified out of a total of 843 registered.

(2) *Work of Health Visitors.*

Rowley Regis, for the purpose of health visiting, is divided on a basis of population and area, into four districts to each of which one Health Visitor is attached. Her duties include:—

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Work.* The routine visiting and re-visiting of infants and children up to school age, attendance at the Centres, the maintaining of a surveillance over children suffering from infectious disease and investigating the circumstances of cases requiring milk at reduced rates or claiming hospital treatment at the expense of the Committee. Insanitary conditions in the home are also recorded.

(b) *Tuberculosis.* The domiciliary visiting of persons suffering from Tuberculosis is carried out, records of all cases being kept and environmental reports sent to the Tuberculosis Officer for the County.

(c) *School Medical Service.* In their role as School Nurses, they perform all the prescribed duties connected with the medical inspection of school children.

### *Analysis of Health Visits made.*

	Visits	Re-visits	Total
Expectant Mothers ... ..	56	33	89
Live Births ... ..	790	2174	2964
Children 1—5 years ... ..	6	1987	1993
Still Births ... ..	16	—	16
Infant Deaths ... ..	47	—	47
Maternal Deaths ... ..	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	14	18
Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease	127	60	187
Tuberculosis—			
County Council ... ..	33	658	691
Local Authority ... ..	37	409	446
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>5335</b>	<b>6452</b>

### *Synopsis of the Health Visitors' Findings.*

YEAR 1925.

No. of Infants visited.			Method of Feeding upon first visit.					Home Conditions.		
Living	Still-born	Dying under 1 yr.	Breast-fed	Bottle-fed	Both	Satisfact'y	Unsatisfact'y	Good	Fair	Unsatisfact'y
790	20	67	742	32	16	584	158	534	126	130

### *(3) Consultation and Treatment Centres.*

In 1921 three Centres, open upon four afternoons weekly, were available for the district. In April, 1925, the Council decided that extra facilities were desirable and, accordingly in June, 1925, one new Centre, located at Springfield, was opened; one Centre (Siveters Lane) was transferred to a more central, but temporary, site, *viz.*, to Ross. Two extra sessions weekly and one session fortnightly for Infant Welfare, and one session fortnightly for Ante-Natal work were to be available. These are fully set out under (d) (1) page 16.

This re-arrangement has been very satisfactory. Formerly, three of the Centres were so congested that, owing to lack of time, the educational side of the work was apt to be neglected. Periodically short addresses upon infant care are given. All babies are undressed prior to being weighed and are seen at regular intervals by

a Medical Officer—an arrangement rendered possible by the appointment of four medical practitioners on a part-time basis.

During the year, 584 new names were added to the Register and the number of attendances at the Centres, both prior to and subsequently to the re-arrangement of the work, is set out below.

*Attendances from 1st January to 31st May, 1925.*

Name of Centre.	District served	0—1 year	1—5 years	Average attendance per Session
Plant Street	Cradley Heath .....	581	455	52
Plant Street .....	Old Hill .....	725	500	58
Siviter's Lane ...	Blackheath and part of Rowley .....	517	370	44
Tividale .....	Tividale and part of Rowley .....	169	229	19
	TOTAL .....	1992	1554	—

*Attendances from 1st June to 31st December, 1925.*

Name of Centre	District served	0—1 Year	1—5 Years	Average Attendance per Session
Plant Street	Cradley Heath .....	661	458	38
Plant Street .....	Cradley Heath and Old Hill .....	626	363	33
Plant Street .....	Old Hill .....	705	418	36
Ross .....	Blackheath and part Rowley .....	890	497	27
Springfield .....	Springfield .....	60	40	10
Tividale .....	Tividale .....	213	182	14
	TOTALS .....	3155	1958	—

In addition to advice to mothers attending (and the above figures show that the Centres remain very popular) records are kept of children requiring medical treatment. Minor ailments are treated at the Centres, and from a voluntary fund a few hospital "Notes" are given, but, in the main, children receive medical treatment privately either from their own doctors or from a hospital.

*Number of individual Children Treated.*

Defect.	At Centres.	At Hospital by		By Doctor or Hospital privately.
		Voluntary Fund.	Local Authority.	
Minor Ailments:				
Eye .....	21	1	—	4
Ear.....	11	—	—	6
Skin Affections.....	179	—	7	11
Defective Vision .....	—	1	—	9
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .....	—	—	12	2
Orthopædic Defects.....	—	1	—	17
Other Defects:				
Bronchitis, Debility, etc. ....	—	7	—	111
TOTAL ...	211	10	19	160

(4) HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT TREATMENT.

(1) *For Expectant Mothers.*

Provision was made and sanctioned in 1925 for the reception at the Maternity Hospital, Loveday Street, Birmingham—

(a) of complicated midwifery cases ; and

(b) of women whose homes are unfit for a confinement to take place therein. The cost per case to the Council is £5. 5s., less a contribution by the patient according to an approved scale.

During the year six cases were admitted ; of these, four came under the sub-heading (a) and two under (b) above.

For septic cases accommodation (if available at the time) could be had at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, Sparkhill, Birmingham. The charge per case would be £10. 10s. None so far have been sent.

(2) *For Young Children.*

Children with affections of the Eye and Throat and Orthopædic Defects requiring operation may be sent to the Children's Hospital, Ladywood Road, Birmingham. The cost to the Council (less a contribution by the parent according to a scale of necessity) is 7s. 6d. per patient day. In 1925 twelve patients were admitted.

(5) *Maternal Mortality.*

There is little alteration in the number of maternal deaths. For the last five years this has averaged 5 per 1,000 births, being slightly lower in 1925, *viz.*, 4.7 per 1,000 ; one death being from Sepsis and three from complications of pregnancy. While the total number occurring in any one year is relatively small compared with the total number of deaths from all causes, they serve as an index of much ill-health amongst parturient women. An expectant mother in normal health and with no pelvic disproportion or abnormal presentation may reasonably regard her prospective lying-in as a physiological process associated with risks practically negligible in degree. How many, however, place themselves during pregnancy under the supervision of a medical attendant or seek advice at the Ante-Natal Centre in order to obtain assurance that all is well ? Again, the figures given below show that, while the death rate for children under one year has fallen materially during the last five years, the death rate during the first month of life has not fallen, and further, that the chief causes of death during that first month of life are prematurity, congenital debility and congenital defects. That there is a close relationship between the ill-health of mothers and the conditions underlying still-birth and the continued high death rate of infants during the first month of life cannot be doubted, and the necessity for expectant mothers to place themselves under medical supervision during pregnancy cannot be too strongly urged.

(6) *Still-Births.*

The number of still-births investigated was 16, of which 6 were instrumental deliveries. The following conditions were reported to have existed in these cases:—

Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	2 cases
Kidney Disease	... ..	2 „
Asthma	... ..	1 case
Pneumonia	... ..	1 „
Influenza	... ..	3 cases
“ Nervous Shock ”	... ..	3 „

In four cases health during pregnancy was normal.



### (7) *Infant Mortality.*

During the last five years this has shown a considerable reduction as the following figures substantiate.

#### *Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Births.*

	Year	Average for Years	Year
	1921	1921—1925	1925
Death Rate	102	89	82

#### *Infant Deaths in age groups stated as approximate percentages of the total.*

Year	Total under 12 months	WEEKS				Total under 4 weeks	MONTHS			
		0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4		4 wks. to 3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.
1921	122	28	10	4	4	46	18	14	9	13
1921—25	430	26	8	4	5	43	14	15	14*	14*
1925	70	19	9	6	9	43	17	10	15*	15*

\*The high rates in the age groups 6—12 months were due in large measure to the number of deaths from respiratory complications following upon influenza and infectious diseases.

#### *Infant Deaths by cause and age group.*

These are detailed in tabular form upon page 74.

### (8) *Ante-Natal Work.*

During 1925 a well-equipped clinic was established at the Plant Street Centre under the charge of Dr. Newell Roberts, of "Clovelly," Blackheath, Birmingham, whose report is as follows:—

#### REPORT BY DR. F. NEWELL ROBERTS.

I have the honour to submit this my report of the attendance and working of the Ante-Natal Centre.

The attendance of new patients up to and including December 31st, 1925, was 35, which in comparison with other districts of the same population is good.

I am sorry to say that there was practically no co-operation of any of the local practitioners or midwives which made the work exceedingly difficult at the start. This was in spite of the fact that practitioners and midwives in the jurisdiction of the Urban District Council were circularised as to its foundation.

In all cases where abnormality was found the doctor or midwife engaged for the case was notified and admission to Hospital offered if necessary.

The work of the Clinic was apparently satisfactory and there were no objections to treatment or examination by patients attending.

The permanent Nursing Staff were especially good and quickly obtained the confidence of those attending, a point which cannot be too frequently emphasized in a clinic of this description.

*Attendance of Ante-Natal Cases.*

Number	1st mth.	2nd mth.	3rd mth.	4th mth.	5th mth.	6th mth.	7th mth.	8th mth.	9th mth.
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
32									

Plus 3 attendances. ? Pregnancy ... 35.

*Types and Cases seen and advised.*

Type	Action taken	No.	Treatment
Normal ...	...	10	Nil.
Justo Minor ...	Advised	3	Doctor or Midwife advised
Flat Pelvis ...	Ditto	5	Ditto
Versions ...	...	3	Performed at Centre
Pyelitis ...	Advised	2	Diet prescribed and Dictor advised
Dead Fœtus ...	...	2	Doctor advised
Retroverted Gravid ...	...	2	Replaced at Centre

Type	Action taken	No.	Treatment
OTHER CONDITIONS			
1. Heart ... ..	...	2	Advised Hospital
2. Prolapse ... ..	...	1	Treated at Centre
3. Varicose Veins ... ..	...	2	Ditto
4. Diabetes ... ..	...	1	Diet prescribed
5. Persistent Vomiting ... ..	...	2	Ditto

With regard to treatment—3 Versions were performed, Normal Vertex Births were resultant. Two Retroverted Gravids were replaced: result, cessation of symptoms did not recur. Pyelitis was treated in conjunction with patients' own doctor. Two very bad hearts were referred for Hospital—advantage taken in both cases.

Varicose Veins and Prolapse—successfully treated.

One case of Diabetes—patient had been advised privately to have pregnancy ended. Advice from Centre to carry on under treatment. Result: twins. Both did well and mother who is now remaining sugar free on restricted diet.

In conclusion I would suggest that more treatment be available at the Centre for such conditions as Pyelitis and Persistent Vomiting, etc.

(9) *Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children and Children deprived of a home with their own parents.*

Health Visitors are not appointed Infant Protection Visitors in this Area.

(10) *Supply of Milk.*

Dried Milk, in accordance with an approved scale of necessity, is supplied at less than cost price to—

- (1) Expectant mothers during the last three months of pregnancy ;
- (2) Nursing Mothers ;
- (3) Children up to the age of three years and, in exceptional cases, up to five years.

The quantity allowed in respect of each person is a 1-lb. packet per week. The number of individual persons granted this assistance in 1925 was 188, the approximate cost to the Council being £122.

Other milk foods and Virol are also supplied but in no case unless medically recommended.

#### (11) *Orthopaedic Treatment.*

There are no comprehensive arrangements for treatment at the expense of the Council, but the provision of such is under consideration. Children, who have attained school age can be provided for in this respect by the Education Committee but inasmuch as the majority of crippling defects originate in early life and prior to the child's admission to school, it is probable that expenditure incurred in early life would yield a better return than when delayed until the commencement of school life. Taken early and before deformities become established, treatment is painless, operation may be avoided; left until a later date, the most skilled surgery may result in rectifying only *imperfectly* a deformity which might have been prevented.

#### (12) *Squint.*

The same necessity for the early ascertainment and treatment applies in the case of Squint.

Whether hereditary or acquired, the age of onset is usually before the child's admission to school (after which date sanction to treat becomes operative) and by that time many cases are already beyond the stage of complete cure. The early and accurate correction of defective vision, and, in particular, myopia and astigmatism with symptoms of discomfort, and the re-education of muscles by the paralysing of the accommodation of the good eye are very desirable but should be carried out only under the supervision of an Ophthalmologist. In this connection I have had the greatest assistance from Dr. F. Newell Roberts, of Blackheath, Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Guest Hospital, Dudley, who, in his capacity as Assistant Medical Officer, comments as follows:—

“ The ophthalmic treatment of children between birth and five years is bad. Squints, which would have been considerably

improved or even cured, are untreated and facilities (for treatment) are poor. It would seem that other arrangements for ophthalmic treatment are wanted."

(13) *Work of Voluntary Societies.*

Voluntary helpers, in their private capacity, participate in the work of the Welfare Centres and give most valuable assistance there, not only in record keeping and developing the social side of the work but by stimulating interest amongst mothers in the making of infant garments.

The Old Hill and Cradley Heath District Nursing Associations, the Committee of the United Service Fund and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children give assistance in their respective capacities when possible.

(14) *Co-ordination with the School Medical Service.*

Every effort is made to co-ordinate the work. The medical and nursing staff is engaged upon duties connected with both services and the records kept in respect of children under five years of age are available for school medical inspection. No provision is made by the Local Authority for the nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough or Epidemic Diarrhoea, or for the use of beds in convalescent homes.

### III. INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the absence of notification and without accurate knowledge of the sex and age distribution of the population, it is not practicable to state the incidence in regard to certain diseases, but the death returns for children under five years of age given below are some guide to their prevalence and virulence.

*Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea under two yrs.*

	Year 1921	Average for 1921—1925	Year 1925
MEASLES—			
Number of Deaths .....	3.0	8.0	16.0
Rate per 1,000 population .....	0.07	0.19	0.37
Percentage of Total Deaths.....	0.64	1.77	3.76
WHOOPING COUGH—			
No. of Deaths .....	2.0	9.0	7.0
Rate per 1,000 population .....	0.05	0.21	0.16
Percentage of Total Deaths.....	0.43	2.0	1.65
DIARRHOEA (under 2 years)			
No. of Deaths .....	21.0	8.0	3.0
Rate per 1,000 births .....	17.70	7.83	3.51
Percentage of Total Deaths.....	4.69	1.77	0.70

The Health Visitors visit the homes of children suffering from these diseases and endeavour to secure their isolation and to remove those influences likely to increase the incidence of Diarrhoea. Owing to the shortage of housing accommodation this is, in many cases, impracticable. Even where possible, parents frequently show little willingness to keep children away from the first case of infection. As Measles and Whooping Cough, not only account for many deaths, but lay the foundation for much chronic invalidity in those who escape a fatal issue, the necessity to prevent or postpone infection cannot be too strongly urged on parents.

### POLIOMYELITIS.

During the last five years no case has been notified. Children suffering from various paralyses are, however, seen at the Centres.

### PUERPERAL FEVER.

The notifications of, and deaths from, this disease are as follows:—

	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS	
	Age Groups 15—25	25—45	Rate per 1,000 births	Total	Percentage of total deaths
1921	1	2	2.53	1	0.21
1922	1	4	5.11	1	0.20
1923	—	1	1.15	2	0.45
1924	—	—	—	—	—
1925	—	1	1.17	1	0.23



Cases requiring treatment can be accommodated at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Since 1921 the incidence and results of treatment are as follows:—

Year	Notified	Cases		Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
		Treated at home	Treated at hospital				
1921	3	1	2	3	—	—	—
1922	4	2	2	3	1	—	—
1923	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
1924	2	1	1	2	—	—	—
1925	4	3	1	4	—	—	—

The Health Visitors keep cases treated at home under supervision. Occasionally, the Health Visitors find that, upon making their first routine visit to new births, some conjunctival inflammation exists. Information of this is passed to the County Medical Officer for his investigation from the point of view of the midwife.

# INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Cause of Death	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 weeks to 3 Months	Total under 3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	3
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhea & Enteritis .....	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	3
Premature Birth .....	6	2	1	2	11	2	13	—	1	—	14
Congenital Defects .....	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	—	4
Congenital Debility, Sclerema & Icterus	4	3	1	1	9	3	12	—	—	—	12
Developmental and Wasting Diseases .....	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	2
Atelectasis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneu- monia (all forms) ...	—	—	1	—	1	5	6	2	6	8	22
Tuberculosis (non-pul- monary) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Injury at Birth .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Causes .....	1	1	1	—	3	—	3	—	2	—	5
ALL CAUSES:											
Certified .....	13	6	4	6	29	12	41	7	11	11	70
Uncertified .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DEATHS (BY CAUSE AND AGE GROUPS) AFTER ALLOWANCE  
MADE FOR TRANSFERS, OCCURRING IN THE DISTRICT  
from 1st January 1925, to 31st December, 1925.

Disease	AGE GROUPS.												Total
	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	1	10	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza .....	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	3	16
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	5
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	20	4	10	1	38
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	7
Cancer: Malignant Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	13	10	26
Rheumatic Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diabetes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12	25	39
Heart Disease .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	3	13	21	43
Arterio Sclerosis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	15
Bronchitis .....	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	15	29
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	16	10	3	—	1	—	2	—	3	1	7	7	50
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic).....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	3	8
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Accidents of Pregnancy.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Premature Birth, Debility and Malformation .....	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
Suicide .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Violence (other forms) .....	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	2	1	1	1	10
Other defined Diseases .....	4	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	7	—	7	33	58
Ill-defined or Unknown Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>428</b>





